



**IT'S A
DEAL**

J.T.C.

Congratulations, Son! You were top in your class again!

Thank you, Father.

Denzel, aren't you proud of your big brother?

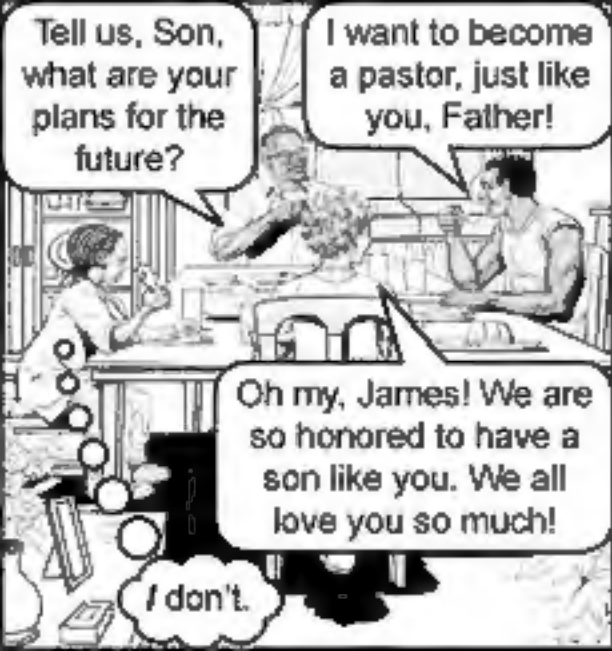
Yes 'um!


My, my. Look at all your trophies! You've won awards in every sport. You are amazing, James!

God has blessed me, Dad.

Amen!

And I can't do nothin' right!



A black and white comic panel showing a man in a white tank top and a woman in profile. The man is smiling broadly and looking at the woman. The woman is looking at him. There are trees and a building in the background.

Next Sunday, I'll be
a married man.

She's hot,
Ice Man!
I envy you.

Haw, haw!
Forget it bro,
she's all mine!

I never thought it would happen.

A black and white comic panel showing a man in the foreground looking towards a woman in the background. The woman is being complimented by two other women. One woman is holding a camera up to take a picture of the woman in the background. The man in the foreground is looking at the woman in the background with a slight smile.

He's beautiful. What a catch!

Mmm...
handsome!
I could go
for him.

Whatcha ladies lookin'
at? A picture of me?
Give *me* a look, Baby!

Just kidding, Ice Man!
It's a joke... get it?

We're just
having fun,
Honey.



I know who this is. It's
the preacher's boy!

Come on, Honey,
don't get mad!



Me, mad?
No way!



Just
teasin',
Ice
Man!

I don't get mad, but I do get *even!*
No one will want to look at him,
when *I* get through with him.

That's his car. He's alone!
Pull up next to him.



Hang on,
Ice Man.



RAT TAT TAT TAT TAT

Gotcha!

3 days later



I'm so sorry, Pastor Franklin. It was a drive by shooting with no witnesses. We'll call you if anything develops.

At the viewing, hundreds come to pay their respects.



Every one cried except Denzel, and his mother noticed his tiny smile.

What was he thinking?

He's dead! Now *I'll* get some respect. My *wish* came true! Wow, it's like I've got some kind of *power*.

Okay, here's my *next* wish... I want to become rich and famous... so *let it come!*

But 6 years later

Denzel, your grades are terrible, and the coach wants you off the team!

You're *not* the hot shot you *think* you are. So straighten up or drop out!

I'd sell my soul
to be famous!


Did you say your
soul's for sale?

It so happens I *buy*
souls. Let's talk.

Do you believe all that
baloney your father preaches?

No way! He's just an
old, religious fool.

I've got a proposition for you, Denzel.




I can make you the most famous basketball star ever!

With more wealth than you can imagine, beautiful women crazy for you... *Interested?*

Yes! I am!

There's just one little thing.

What is it?




Nothing big, Denzel. It sounds a little nutty, but I *do* collect souls. It's my thing!

So here's the deal: you get 13 incredible years, and *anything* you desire, but in the end *I* get your soul, okay?



Yeah, man! It's a deal!

Starting right now, you are the man.
Go see your coach and show him
how you shoot baskets.



Franklin, what are you
doing back here?

Watch me sink that
basket from here.

You're all talk, Denzel. Take
your shot and never set
foot on my court again.



Gasp!

Plunk



Gotta go See ya!

Hey Denzel! *Wait!* I want to talk to you.

Sorry, I can't, coach! You ordered me off the court!



No, no. Denzel! I was *wrong!* Please slay


Give me *one* good reason.

Uh. um. let's face it You'll be **bigger** than your brother *ever* was

You make history Please.


Hmm. well

6 months later



I'm telling you, he's scary! He never misses a shot. We've beat every team we've faced!

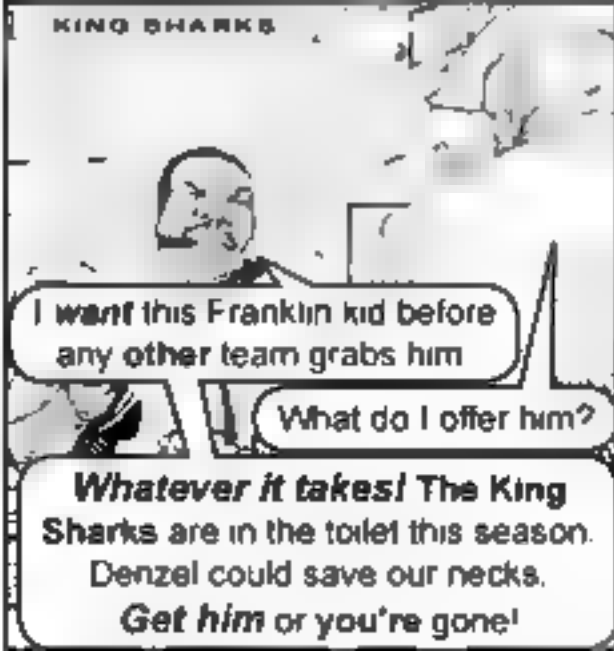
Look at that! He did it *again!*



I don't understand this, Denzel. You're pulling straight A's in every class. What an amazing turn around!

How did you do it?

Trust me, you wouldn't believe me if I told you.



5 years later

Denzel you're the highest paid basketball player in history



True

You've won the league's championship for 5 straight years. Everyone wants your endorsements. Millions love your commercials.

Years pass



What??

He's so wonderful!

I'm sorry but it's your mother. Your father is desperately sick. Will you talk to her?

You know my schedule. I'm shooting commercials. What's wrong with you? Hang up!

12 years and 11 months have passed

Denzel, is it true women just throw themselves at you?

Yes, worldwide! And I *don't* disappoint them

What about marriage?

No way! I'd break too many hearts!

Awwww!

Clap! Clap!

Come on ladies let's party!


You're such a party animal.

HOTEL

And we've got nothing but time.

You fool!

Your time has just run out

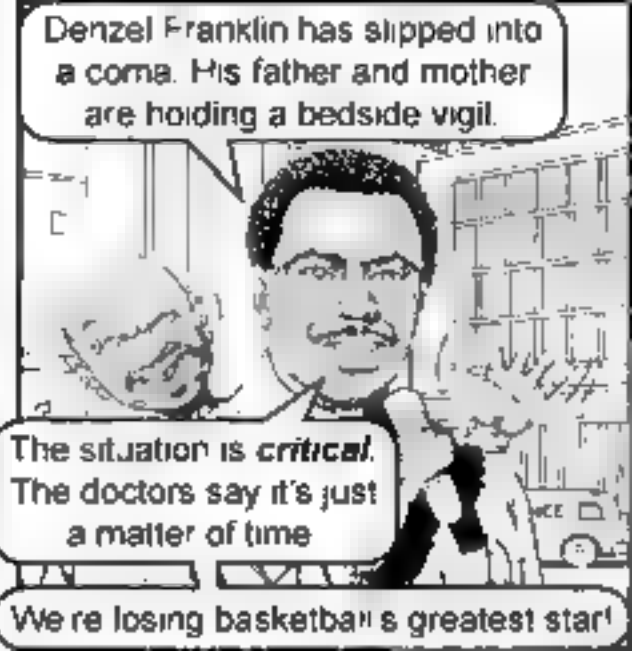


What's happening to me doc? I feel sick as a dog.

We've run test after test. We have no idea what's causing it so we don't know how to fight it

I feel like 'm *dying!*

Unfortunately, you are I give you a week.



Denzel Franklin has slipped into a coma. His father and mother are holding a bedside vigil.

The situation is *critical*. The doctors say it's just a matter of time

We're losing basketball's greatest star!



Flat-line! He's gone!
We lost him I'm sorry

NO! He
can't die!


Denzel, get back
into that body!




Lord Jesus pull him back!
Give me 5 minutes!

Denzel in Jesus'
name, *return!*

Why doesn't she
just give up?



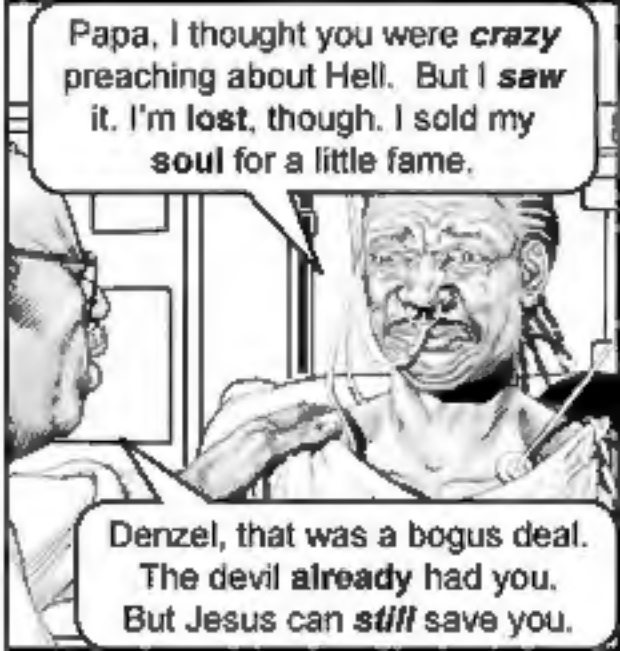
He *moved!* Look! Thank you, **Jesus!** He's back!



I was on *fire!* Down in **hell!**

It was *horrible!*
Help me!
I can't go back down there.

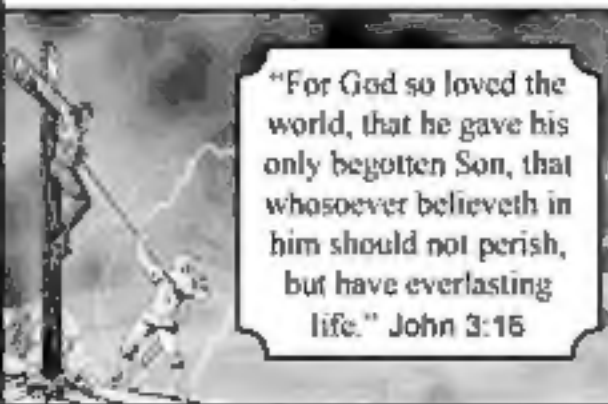
Phew, it smells like **sulphur** in here.



Papa, I thought you were *crazy* preaching about Hell. But I **saw** it. I'm **lost**, though. I sold my **soul** for a little fame.

Denzel, that was a bogus deal. The devil **already** had you. But Jesus can *still* save you.

God's Son died for you on the cross to wash away your sins with His precious blood.



"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." John 3:16

3 days later He rose from the dead, *breaking* Satan's death grip on us.

Ask Jesus to forgive you!
Believe in Him as your personal Saviour. Receive Him into your heart and you can be saved.




I just did, Papa.

Praise God!

Can you hear that beautiful music?

Moments later his soul was taken to heaven.

**Blast it! I lost Denzel...
but... oh, *hi* there!**



**I think I can
help you! Can
we talk about
your soul?**

**Warning: Any deal with
the devil is phony.**

**If you haven't trusted in
the Lord Jesus as your Saviour...
*Satan's already gotcha!***

**Do you want to
be saved from
going to hell?**

**"...Believe on the Lord Jesus
Christ, and thou shalt be saved..."
Acts 16:31**

THE BIBLE SAYS THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY TO HEAVEN!

Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life; no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." John 14:6

NOBODY ELSE CAN SAVE YOU. TRUST JESUS TODAY!

"That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved." Rom. 10:9

1. Admit you are a sinner. See Romans 3:10
2. Be willing to turn from sin (repent). See Acts 17:30
3. Believe that Jesus Christ died for you, was buried and rose from the dead. See Rom. 10:9-10
4. Through prayer, invite Jesus into your heart to become your personal Saviour. See Rom. 10:13

WHAT TO PRAY

Dear God, I am a sinner and need forgiveness. I believe that Jesus Christ shed His precious blood and died for my sin. I am willing to turn from sin. I now invite Christ to come into my heart as my personal Saviour.

If you trusted Jesus as your Saviour, you have just begun a wonderful new life with Him. Now:

1. Read your Bible (KJV) every day to get to know Jesus Christ better.
2. Talk to God in prayer every day.
3. Be baptized, worship, fellowship, and serve with other Christians in a church where Christ is preached and the Bible is the final authority.
4. Tell others about Jesus Christ.

Here's help to grow as a new Christian! Read *The Next Step*, available at www.chick.com.

